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Message Text

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73
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 NASA-04 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SS-15 RSR-01 /122 W
---------- 116656
P R 171940Z AUG 73
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4491
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 1844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, BR
SUBJECT: AEROSPACE '73: POSSIBILITY OF APOLLO-SOYUZ SPACESHIP
EXHIBIT?

REF: CARACAS 7017

1. APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK'S THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTION
BUT FROM STRICTLY LOCAL STANDPOINT, IS NEITHER DESIRABLE NOR
FEASIBLE. REASONS FOLLOW:

(A) FAIR AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO SECURE SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN
AIRSHOW MONTHS AGO AND AS RECENTLY AS MARCH FAIR DIRECTOR
PLANNED MOSCOW TRIP TO CONVINCE SOVIETS TO PARTICIPATE. AFTER
LETTING MATTER DANGLE FOR SOME TIME, SOVIETS TWO MONTHS AGO FLATLY
TURNED DOWN PROPOSAL. THE MANNER OF HANDLING THIS LEFT RESIDUE
ILL FEELING. MOREOVER, SOVIET INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT CURRENTLY BEING
HELD AT THE SAME LOCATION IN SAO PAULO HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE
FRICTION, DUE IN PART TO PUBLIC COMMENTS BY SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE
AT OPENING PRESS CONFERENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOB HAD PUT
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LIMITATIONS ON THE TYPE OF SHOW THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO GIVE.

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FURTHER MANIFESTATION THIS ATMOSPHERE WAS THE UNUSUALLY LOW LEVEL STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION AT INAUGURAL CEREMONIES. (A FULL REPORT ON SOVIET EXHIBITION UNDER PREPARATION.)
(B) SUDDEN LAST MINUTE LINKAGE OF US EXHIBITION WITH SOVIETS IN SUCH A DRAMATIC WAY WOULD CREATE QUITE A STIR LOCALLY, WHICH WOULD PUZZLE LOCAL BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS AND THE BRAZILIAN PUBLIC AND WOULD NO DOUBT BE INTERPRETED AS HAVING POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FAR BEYOND THOSE INTENDED.
(C) PROPOSAL WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN HUGE BRAZILIAN AVIATION AND AIRPORT EQUIPMENT MARKET. THIS SECTOR HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY EMBASSY AS ONE OF SIX MAJOR US COMMERCIAL OBJECTIVES IN BRAZIL. US PARTICIPATION IN AIRSHOW REPRESENTS THE MOST IMPORTANT (AND EXPENSIVE) US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PROGRAM IN BRAZIL SINCE 1971 SOLO EXHIBITION. AFTER FIGHTING LONG, UP-HILL BATTLE FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO UNDO ILL EFFECTS OF OUR REFUSAL IN LATE 1960'S TO PROVIDE GOB WITH AIRCRAFT WHICH THEY CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO THEIR SECURITY NEEDS, AND AFTER MAKING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN RECENT MONTHS, WE WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT TO RISK HAVING THESE EFFORTS BECOME ENMESHED IN POSSIBLE POLITICAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS BY BRAZILIAN MILITARY, WHICH WE BELIEVE JOINT US-SOVIET DISPLAY COULD ENGENDER.
(D) BEYOND THIS, FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, EVEN IF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS DID NOT APPLY, IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS

LATE DATE, LESS THAN ONE MONTH FROM OPENING, TO OVERCOME LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH PROJECT IMPLIES.

2. FOR ABOVE REASONS, THEREFORE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES NOT PURSUE CARACAS PROPOSAL.
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